



H.R. 6532 – To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6532 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) on July 17, 2008. The House passed H.R. 6532 on July 23, 2008, by a vote of 387 to 37, and the Senate passed the bill on September 10, 2008, by voice vote.

H.R. 6532, as passed by the Senate, is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 11, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6532 amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to transfer \$8.017 billion from the U.S. Treasury General Fund to the Highway Trust Fund on the date of enactment.

**Note: H.R. 6532 as passed by the House on July 23, 2008, would have transferred the funds on September 30, 2008.*

BACKGROUND

The Highway Trust Fund (HTF) was created by the Highway Revenue Act of 1956 (P.L. 84-627). This fund is used to finance the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways. The Highway Trust Fund is funded by tax revenues from taxes on fuels and truck-related taxes on truck tires, sales of trucks and trailers, and heavy vehicle use.

According to early estimates from the Congressional Budget Office, the HTF was expected to have a \$1.4 billion budgetary shortfall beginning in fiscal year 2009. However, because of dramatically increased gas prices, Americans are purchasing less fuel and therefore are depositing less gas taxes into the Highway Trust Fund. The decrease in revenues to the Highway Trust Fund accelerated the timeline for reaching the projected shortfall, and on September 5, 2008, Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters, announced that immediate Congressional action was needed to delay the Highway Trust Fund shortfall.

[Shortfall Announcement by Secretary Peters](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6532 as of September 11, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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